

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4471

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

CINCEUR

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, LY, DM, UR, CN, PL, EG

SUBJ: TRIPOLI WATCH

1. A SOVIET DELEGATION LED BY MICHAEL BONOMARIV ARRIVED IN TRIPOLI JUNE 10. BONOMARIV, A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE, THE SOVIET PRESIDUM COUNCIL AND FIRST SECRETARY OF VLADIMIR CITY, IS HERE TO ATTEND THE VARIOUS FESTIVITIES ON THE OCCASION OF THE CELEBRATION OF AMERICAN EVACUATION DAY. THE SOVIET DELEGATION WAS MET UPON ARRIVAL BY THE SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFIARS, DEPARTMENT OF THE GENERAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS AHMAD SHAHATI.

2. BENIN PRESIDENT MATTHEW KREIKOU ARRIVED IN TRIPOLI JUNE 10. THE PRESIDENT OF BENIN WAS MET UPON ARRIVAL BY MAJOR JALLUD, LTC ABUBAKR YUNIS, LIBYA'S COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES, AND ABDUL ATI AL-UBEIDI, THE
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CHAIRMAN OF THE GENERAL PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE. KREIKOU STATED TO PRESS UPON ARRIVAL THAT HIS VISIT TO LIBYA WAS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF "CONSULTATION AIMED AT STRENGTHENING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES." THE PRESIDENT OF BENIN PRAISED LIBYA FOR THE SUPPORT IT PROVIDED HIS COUNTRY AND CONDEMNED THE INVASION OF BENIN LAST JANUARY BY "SOME AFRICAN REACTIONARY

COUNTRIES WHICH ARE ALLIES OF COLONIALISM."

3. LIBYAN SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFIARS, DEPARTMENT OF THE GENERAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS, AHMAD SHAHATI, RECEIVED IN HIS OFFICE JUNE 8 POLISH PROFESSOR JOSEPH BILMAMNISKY, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LIBYAN ARAB POLISH FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY. BILMAMNISKY IS CURRENTLY VISITING LIBYA AND REPORTEDLY DISCUSSING ASPECTS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN LIBYA AND POLAND.

4. PROTOCOLS. LIBYA AND THE COMORO ISLANDS SIGNED A PROTOCOL JUNE 8 FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN VARIOUS FIELDS. THE PROTOCOL, SIGNED BY LIBYAN UNDER SECRETARY FOR TECHNICAL AFFAIRS OF THE FOREIGN SECRETARIAT AHMAD AL-ATRASH AND COMORO UNDER SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND COOPERATION JOSEPH MIRITO, PRESUMABLY INVOLVES THE CREATION OF A JOINT COMPANY VENTURE AND LIBYAN FINANCIAL AID TO THE COMORO ISLANDS.

5. NEW TITEL: FORMER RCC MEMBER MAJOR KHUWALDI AL-HUMAYDI IS PRESENTLY DESCRIBED IN PRESS AS "THE COMMANDER OF THE POPULAR RESISTANCE (MILITIA)." THE TITLE SUGGESTS THAT ALGHOUGH HUMAYDI IS NO LONGER MINISTER OF INTERIOR, HE CONTINUES TO CONTROL IBYA'S NATIONAL GUARD.

6. LIBYAN/EGYPTIAN HIGHWAY REOPENED. ACCORDING TO LOCAL MEDIA LIBYAN AND EGYPTIJN OFFICIALS HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGREED TO THE REOPENING OF THE COASTAL HIGHWAY LINKING ALEXANDRIA AND BENGHAZI. MEDIA REPORTS THAT THE DECISION WAS MADE JUNE 7 WHEN THE OFFICIALS MET IN ALEXANDRIA AND DECIDED "TO SURMOUNT ALL DIFFICULTIES THAT MIGHT ARISE IN REOPENING THE ROAD AS WELL AS SIMPLIFYING CUSTOM MEASURES FOR FREE PASSAGE OF EGYPTIAN CITIZENS."

7. NAVAL MANEUVERS. LBIAH PRESS JUNE 6 GIVES EXTENSIVE PHOTO COVERAGE BUT BRIEF COMMENTARY ON LIBYAN NAVAL EXERCISES OFF THE GENGHAZI COAST. PRESS REPORTS UE OF LIVE AMMUNITION, AS WELL AS SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILES DURING EXERCISES. LIBYANS PUBLICLY DISPLAYED FOR THE FIRST TIME ITS SOVIET-BUILT ODESSA MISSLE BOATS.
CARLE

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